



Coffee with Council – Public Outreach Meetings
February 27, 2016 – 9:30 a.m.
Location: Tim Hortons – 365 Agler Road

PRESENT: Stephen Renner, Karen Angelou, Nancy McGregor, Brian Larick, Brian Metzbower

Resident said Founders' Ridge has issues with seeing street signs; too small; discussed with former Mayor; initiated the problem with every street sign; can't read the signs at night; smaller letters in lower case and can't see them; want to see street signs replaced; important to look uniform and legible; show community the character of the City; resident said she'd like to see signs all matching; safety issues if you have to stop and read signs especially the brown signs; residents are saying that they are not legible; need to address unification and safety concerns.

Strategic meeting is March 8; get see all the strategic initiatives; easels and displays for discussion and ideas; Jen Teal, City Administrator will go over goals and results.

Safety issues like machete incident at restaurant; how to decide when to add more police officers; heightened security; asked what's role for police issues; have 55 officers; authorized for 60; funding issues to fund all of them; FBI gives a number per thousands and we are where we should be with staffed officers; like to increase one day; officers we do have do a great job and have high visibility; important to patrol our businesses; residents are definitely priority level; bikes have a great purpose as long as they are patrolled properly; don't ever hesitate to contact someone with a concern; strength in numbers; invited all to come to Chief's Civil meeting the last Thursday of the month.

Online water billing; fee is high; \$7 to call in to pay bill is too much; service department is putting together from a cost stand point best solution for your particular situation; outlined information posted on line so you can see what is the best way for you to pay; this is a convenience and is a fee to the third party; you can send money every month and they will send the balance if that helps.

VFW closed Monday; 4 to 11 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; Saturday at noon; Fridays always have meals 5:30 to 7:30; Sunday morning breakfast; check website; don't need to be a member to eat; advertised in the Rocky Fork Enterprise; VFW 4719.

Water bill over 7 percent and Columbus is only up 2 or 3%; City runs as a Master Meter Community buying water and sewer from Columbus; agreements for water; no other community can do anything different; have to meet at least what City is being charged and lines that need to be maintained; operations costs, etc.; service compiled a chart that shows real costs that shows how to maintain; multi-million dollar projects need to be maintained in order to capture any future problems; Gahanna is lower end for Master Meter City; Gahanna is known as a premier service provider; don't have meter readers and read electronically; service provides alarms to identify problems and very quick response time; checks to see if there is a leak to help residents; have water sensors roughly every 200' to detect a leak; crews immediately come fix and save a lot of money; a little higher rate but do provide services above other communities; the state provides a list of these types of services; communities are not always apples to apples to compare.

Trees along Stygler have two different diseases; dead in the mid of summer; arborist said they need treated; City needs to figure out what's wrong with them.

Update on income tax case; still in the court process; recent Supreme Court case that may impact this case; still holding money in budget; outcome could be a few years out.

Residents would like to see the elected officials wearing name badges at these meetings until they get to know them.

Looking at traffic situation on Stygler; traffic study to identify the intersections Stygler & Agler; working on Economic Development Strategy to alleviate problems; Economic Development Community Engagement Committee (EDCEC) it was discussed; business leaders and residents for input brought forward by Council to serve on this committee; plan being adopted; next steps have another meeting in May or June; see concepts on what people want to see; open to new ideas; addressing existing zoning laws; resident said need code enforcement; people not cutting yards; parking semis in residential areas; need to get the City cleaned up; keep up on properties; some windows are boarded up; big problem with zoning all over Gahanna; Council discussed it recently; zoning across the City will be addressed; new Mayor looking at branding; understanding what is appropriate without violating property rights; will see actionable items soon; told people to call or send email and copy Council; call and report problems so they can be addressed.

Council thanked everyone for coming out; it will help to get problems solved; asked how people heard about coffee; Clerk Banning's emails are a big help; people forward to others; great turn out this morning; reach out to City with matters you want to be heard; social media works for some people and different matters to announce; still take a minute to call so that we know what's going on; people posted about speeders but nobody called to report; call and there will be a resolution; call non-emergency number; Police Department does appreciate calls; makes their job easier.

NEXT COFFEE WITH COUNCIL IS MAY 26, 2016 6:30 P.M. DONATOS – JOHNSTOWN ROAD

